ROUTERS FOR SWITCHING ATM CELLS IN A PACKET-LIKE MANNER USING A PACKET SWITCH

ABSTRACT

5   A technique for disguising ATM cells as ATM cell-containing packets within a routing facility to permit the packet-only switch to also handle switching of the ATM cells. The technique has wide applications within the backbone infrastructure, Wide Area Networks, Metro Area Networks, Local Area Networks, and particularly within a routing facility to handle high speed traffic. The technique can receive both

10   ATM cells and packets for switching via a single channel or optical fiber or receive ATM cells and packets via two separate channels or two separate fibers. The ability to handle both ATM cell and packet switching allows packet-only routers to handle ATM traffic, thereby reducing the cost of the switching infrastructure for network operators.